Highest weight representations of a Lie algebra of Block type¹

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Abstract. For a field \mathbb{F} of characteristic zero and an additive subgroup G of \mathbb{F} , a Lie algebra $\mathcal{B}(G)$ of Block type is defined with basis $\{L_{\alpha,i}, c \mid \alpha \in G, -1 \leq i \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ and relations $[L_{\alpha,i}, L_{\beta,j}] = ((i+1)\beta - (j+1)\alpha)L_{\alpha+\beta,i+j} + \alpha\delta_{\alpha,-\beta}\delta_{i+j,-2}c, [c, L_{\alpha,i}] = 0$. Given a total order \succ on G compatible with its group structure, and any $\Lambda \in \mathcal{B}(G)_0^*$, a Verma $\mathcal{B}(G)$ -module $M(\Lambda, \succ)$ is defined, and the irreducibility of $M(\Lambda, \succ)$ is completely determined. Furthermore, it is proved that an irreducible highest weight $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{Z})$ -module is quasifinite if and only if it is a proper quotient of a Verma module.

Key words: Verma modules, Lie algebras of Block type, irreducbility.

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§1. Introduction

Block [B] introduced a class of infinite dimensional simple Lie algebras over a field of characteristic zero. Generalizations of Block algebras (usually referred to as *Lie algebras of Block type*) have been studied by many authors (see, for example, [DZ, LT, S1, S2, X1, X2, WZ, ZM]). Partially because they are closely related to the Virasoro algebra (and some of them are sometimes called Virasoro-like algebras), these algebras have attracted some attention in the literature.

Let \mathbb{F} be a field of characteristic 0 and G an additive subgroup of \mathbb{F} . The Lie algebra $\mathcal{B}(G)$ of Block type considered in this paper is the Lie algebra with basis $\{L_{\alpha,i}, c \mid \alpha \in G, i \in \mathbb{Z}, i \geq -1\}$ and relations

$$[L_{\alpha,i}, L_{\beta,j}] = ((i+1)\beta - (j+1)\alpha)L_{\alpha+\beta,i+j} + \alpha\delta_{\alpha,-\beta}\delta_{i+j,-2}c, \quad [c, L_{\alpha,i}] = 0.$$
 (1.1)

Let

$$\mathcal{B}(G)_{\alpha} = \operatorname{span}\{L_{\alpha,i} | i \ge -1\} + \delta_{\alpha,0} \mathbb{F}c. \tag{1.2}$$

Then $\mathcal{B}(G) = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in G} \mathcal{B}(G)_{\alpha}$ is G-graded (but not finitely graded). Throughout this paper, we fix a total order " \succ " on G compatible with its group structure. Denote

$$G_{+} = \{x \in G \mid x \succ 0\}, \quad G_{-} = \{x \in G \mid x \prec 0\}.$$

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Then $G = G_+ \cup \{0\} \cup G_-$. Setting $\mathcal{B}(G)_{\pm} = \bigoplus_{\pm \alpha \succ 0} \mathcal{B}(G)_{\alpha}$, we have the triangular decomposition

$$\mathcal{B}(G) = \mathcal{B}(G)_{-} \oplus \mathcal{B}(G)_{0} \oplus \mathcal{B}(G)_{+}.$$

Note that $\mathcal{B}(G)_0 = \operatorname{span}\{L_{0,i} \mid i \geq -1\} \oplus \mathbb{F}c$ is a commutative subalgebra of $\mathcal{B}(G)$ (but it is not a Cartan subalgebra).

A $\mathcal{B}(G)$ -module V is quasifinite if V is finitely G-graded, namely,

$$V = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in G} V_{\alpha}, \quad \mathcal{B}(G)_{\alpha} V_{\beta} \subset V_{\alpha+\beta}, \quad \dim V_{\alpha} < \infty \quad \text{for} \quad \alpha, \beta \in G.$$

Quasifinite modules are closed studied by some authors, e.g., [KL, KR, S1, S2]. In [S1], it is proved that a quasifinite irreducible $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{Z})$ -module is a highest or lowest weight module and the quasifinite irreducible highest weight modules are classified. The main result of this paper is the following.

- **Theorem 1.1** (1) An irreducible highest weight $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{Z})$ -module is quasifinite if and only if it is a proper quotient of a Verma module.
 - (2) Let $\Lambda \in \mathcal{B}(G)_0^*$. With respect to a dense order " \succ " of G (cf. (2.3)), the Verma $\mathcal{B}(G)$ module $M(\Lambda, \succ)$ is irreducible if and only if $\Lambda \neq 0$. Moreover, in case $\Lambda = 0$, if we set

$$M'(0,\succ) = \sum_{k>0,\,\alpha_1,\cdots,\alpha_k\in G_+} \mathbb{F}L_{-\alpha_1,i_1}\cdots L_{\alpha_k,i_k}v_0,$$

then $M'(0, \succ)$ is an irreducible submodule of $M(0, \succ)$ if and only if for all $x, y \in G_+$, there exists a positive integer n such that $nx \succ y$.

(3) With respect to a discrete order " \succ " (cf. (2.4)), the Verma $\mathcal{B}(G)$ -module $M(\Lambda, \succ)$ is irreducible if and only if $M_a(\Lambda, \succ)$ is an irreducible $\mathcal{B}(a\mathbb{Z})$ -module.

§2. Verma modules over $\mathcal{B}(G)$

Let $U = U(\mathcal{B}(G))$ be the universal enveloping algebra of $\mathcal{B}(G)$. For any $\Lambda \in \mathcal{B}(G)_0^*$ (the dual space of $\mathcal{B}(G)_0$), let $I(\Lambda, \succ)$ be the left ideal of U generated by the elements

$$\{L_{\alpha,i} \mid \alpha \succ 0, i \geq -1\} \cup \{h - \Lambda(h) \cdot 1 \mid h \in \mathcal{B}(G)_0\}.$$

Then the Verma $\mathcal{B}(G)$ -module with respect to the order " \succ " is defined as

$$M(\Lambda,\succ)=U/I(\Lambda,\succ).$$

By the PBW theorem, it has a basis consisting of all vectors of the form

$$L_{-\alpha_1,i_1}L_{-\alpha_2,i_2}\cdots L_{-\alpha_k,i_k}v_{\Lambda},$$

where v_{Λ} is the coset of 1 in $M(\Lambda, \succ)$, and

$$-1 \le i_j \in \mathbb{Z}$$
, $0 < \alpha_1 \le \cdots \le \alpha_k$, and $i_s \le i_{s+1}$ if $\alpha_s = \alpha_{s+1}$.

Note that $M(\Lambda, \succ)$ is a highest weight $\mathcal{B}(G)$ -module in the sense that $M(\Lambda, \succ) = \bigoplus_{\alpha \preccurlyeq 0} M_{\alpha}$, where $M_0 = \mathbb{F}v_{\Lambda}$, and M_{α} for $\alpha \prec 0$ is spanned by

$$L_{-\alpha_1, i_1} L_{-\alpha_2, i_2} \cdots L_{-\alpha_k, i_k} v_{\Lambda}, \tag{2.1}$$

with $i_j \geq -1$, $0 \prec \alpha_1 \preccurlyeq \cdots \preccurlyeq \alpha_k$, and $\alpha_1 + \cdots + \alpha_k = -\alpha$. Thus $M(\Lambda, \succ)$ is a G-graded $\mathcal{B}(G)$ -module with $\dim M_{-\alpha} = \infty$ for any $\alpha \in G_+$.

We call a nonzero vector $u \in M_{\alpha}$ a weight vector with weight α . For any $a \in G$, denote

$$\mathcal{B}(a\mathbb{Z}) = \operatorname{span}\{L_{na,k} \mid a \in \mathbb{Z}, k \ge -1\},\$$

a subalgebra of $\mathcal{B}(G)$ isomorphic to $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{Z})$. We also denote

$$M_a(\Lambda, \succ) = \mathcal{B}(a\mathbb{Z})$$
-submodule of $M(\Lambda, \succ)$ generated by v_{Λ} .

Denote

$$B(\alpha) = \{ \beta \in G \mid 0 \prec \beta \prec \alpha \} \quad \text{for } \alpha \in G_+.$$
 (2.2)

The order " \succ " is called *dense* if

$$#B(\alpha) = \infty \quad \text{for all} \quad \alpha \in G_+,$$
 (2.3)

it is discrete if

$$B(a) = \emptyset$$
 for some $a \in G_+$. (2.4)

Proof of Theorem 1.1(2) and (3). (2) Suppose the order " \succ " is dense. For each $m \in \mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, ...\}$, set

$$V_m = \sum_{\substack{0 \le s \le m, \ i_1, \dots i_s \ge -1 \\ 0 \prec \alpha_1 \preceq \dots \preceq \alpha_s}} \mathbb{F}L_{-\alpha_1, i_1} \cdots L_{-\alpha_s, i_s} v_{\Lambda}, \tag{2.5}$$

where $i_s \leq i_{s+1}$ if $\alpha_s = \alpha_{s+1}$. It is clear that $L_{\alpha,k}V_m \subseteq V_m$ for any $\alpha \in G_+$, $k \geq -1$.

Let $u_0 \neq 0$ be any given weight vector in $M(\Lambda, \succ)$. We want to prove that $v_{\Lambda} \in U(\mathcal{B}(G))u_0$ if $\Lambda \neq 0$. We divide the proof into four steps:

Step 1. We claim that there exists some weight vector $u \in U(\mathcal{B}(G))u_0$ such that, for some $r \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$u \equiv \sum_{k_1, \dots, k_r \in \mathbb{N}} a_{\underline{k}} L_{-\varepsilon_r, k_r} \dots L_{-\varepsilon_1, k_1} v_{\Lambda} \pmod{V_{r-1}} \quad \text{for some} \quad a_{\underline{k}} \in \mathbb{F},$$

where $0 \prec \varepsilon_r \prec \cdots \prec \varepsilon_1$, and $0 \neq a_{\underline{k}} \in \mathbb{F}$ for some $\underline{k} = (k_r, \cdots, k_1)$.

It is clear that $u_0 \in V_r \setminus V_{r-1}$ for some $r \in \mathbb{N}$. If $r \leq 1$, our claim clearly holds. So we assume that r > 1. Hence we can write

$$u_0 \equiv \sum_{0 \prec \alpha_1 \preceq \cdots \preceq \alpha_r} a_{\underline{\alpha},\underline{i}} L_{-\alpha_1,i_1} \cdots L_{-\alpha_r,i_r} v_{\Lambda} \pmod{V_{r-1}} \quad \text{for some} \quad a_{\underline{\alpha},\underline{i}} \in \mathbb{F},$$

where $\underline{\alpha} = (\alpha_1, ..., \alpha_r), \underline{i} = (i_1, ..., i_r),$ and we denote

$$(\underline{\alpha},\underline{i}) = (\alpha_1, ..., \alpha_r, i_1, ..., i_r).$$

Let $I = \{(\underline{\alpha}, \underline{i}) \mid a_{\underline{\alpha},\underline{i}} \neq 0\}$. By assumption, $I \neq \emptyset$. For any $\underline{\alpha}$ and $\underline{\alpha}' = (\alpha'_1, \dots, \alpha'_r)$, we define

$$\underline{\alpha} \succ \underline{\alpha}' \iff \exists s \in \{1, ..., r\} \text{ such that } \alpha_s \succ \alpha_s', \text{ and } \alpha_t = \alpha_t' \text{ for } t > s.$$
 (2.6)

Similarly, for any \underline{i} and $\underline{i}' = (i'_1, \dots, i'_r)$, we define

$$\underline{i} > \underline{i}' \iff \exists s \in \{1, ..., r\} \text{ such that } i_s > i_s, \text{ and } i_t = i'_t \text{ for } t > s.$$
 (2.7)

For any $(\underline{\alpha}, \underline{i}), (\underline{\alpha'}, \underline{i'}) \in I$, we define

$$(\underline{\alpha}, \underline{i}) \succ (\underline{\alpha}', \underline{i}') \iff \underline{\alpha} \succ \underline{\alpha}', \text{ or } \underline{\alpha} = \underline{\alpha}', \underline{i} > \underline{i}'.$$
 (2.8)

Let

$$(\underline{\beta},\underline{j}) = (\beta_1,\cdots,\beta_r,j_1,\cdots,j_r), \quad 0 \prec \beta_1 \preceq \cdots \preceq \beta_r,$$

be the unique maximal element in I. Then we can write β as

$$\beta = (\beta_1, ..., \beta_s, \beta_r, ..., \beta_r) \quad \text{for some } s \in \{1, ..., r\}.$$

By the assumption that " \succ " is a dense order, we can always find some $\varepsilon_1 \in G_+$ such that

$$\varepsilon_1 \prec \beta_1$$
 and $\{x \in G_+ \mid \beta_r - \varepsilon_1 \prec x \prec \beta_r\} \cap \{\alpha_r, \alpha_{r-1} \mid (\underline{\alpha}, \underline{i}) \in I \text{ for some } \underline{i}\} = \emptyset.$

Using relations (1.1), and noting that $\beta_r - \varepsilon_1 - \alpha_k > 0$ if $\alpha_k \neq \beta_r, k \in \{1, \dots, r\}$, by choosing $k_1 \gg 0$ with $k_1 \in \mathbb{N}$, we see that

$$u_1 := L_{\beta_r - \varepsilon_1, k_1} u_0 \equiv \sum_{\substack{0 \prec \alpha_1 \preceq \cdots \preceq \alpha_{r-1}, k_1' \in \mathbb{N} \\ 0 \prec \alpha_1 \preceq \cdots \preceq \alpha_{r-1}, k_2' \in \mathbb{N}}} a_{\underline{\alpha}, \underline{j}}^{(1)} L_{-\varepsilon_1, k_1'} L_{-\alpha_1, i_1} \cdots L_{-\alpha_{r-1}, i_{r-1}} v_{\Lambda} \pmod{V_{r-1}},$$

for some $a_{\underline{\alpha},j}^{(1)} \in \mathbb{F}$. Set

$$I^{(1)} = \{ (\varepsilon_1, \alpha_1, \cdots, \alpha_{r-1}, k'_1, i_1, \cdots, i_{r-1}) \mid a_{\alpha, i}^{(1)} \neq 0 \}.$$

The coefficient corresponding to

$$(\underline{\beta}^{(1)},\underline{j}^{(1)}) = (\varepsilon_1,\beta_1,\cdots,\beta_{r-1},k_1+j_{s+1},j_1,\cdots,j_{r-1})$$

 $((\beta^{(1)},j^{(1)})$ maybe not the maximal element in $I^{(1)})$ is

$$-m((k_1+1)\beta_r+(j_{s+1}+1)(\beta_r-\varepsilon_1))a_{\underline{\beta,j}}\neq 0 \quad \text{for some} \ m\in\mathbb{N}.$$

Thus $I^{(1)} \neq \emptyset$.

Now for $p = 2, \dots, r$, we define recursively and easily prove by induction that

(i) Let $\varepsilon_p \in G_+$ such that $\varepsilon_p \prec \varepsilon_{p-1}$ and

$$\left\{x \in G \mid \beta_{r-p+1} - \varepsilon_p \prec x \prec \beta_{r-p+1}\right\} \cap \left\{\alpha_{r-p+1}, \alpha_{r-p} \mid (\underline{\alpha}, j) \in I^{(p-1)}\right\} = \emptyset.$$

(ii) Choose $k_p \gg 0$ and let $u_p = L_{\beta_{r-p+1}-\varepsilon_p,k_p}u_{p-1}$. Then, for some $a_{\underline{\alpha},\underline{j}}^{(p)} \in \mathbb{F}$,

$$u_p \equiv \sum_{0 \prec \alpha_1 \preccurlyeq \cdots \preccurlyeq \alpha_{r-p}} a_{\underline{\alpha},\underline{j}}^{(p)} L_{-\varepsilon_p,k_p'} \cdots L_{-\varepsilon_1,k_1'} L_{-\alpha_1,i_1} \cdots L_{-\alpha_{r-p},i_{r-p}} v_{\Lambda} \pmod{V_{r-1}}.$$

(iii) Let

$$I^{(p)} = \{(\varepsilon_p, \cdots, \varepsilon_1, \alpha_1, \cdots, \alpha_{r-p}, k'_p, \cdots, k'_1, i_1, \cdots, j_{r-p}) \mid a_{\underline{\alpha},\underline{j}}^{(p)} \neq 0\}.$$

Then $I^{(p)} \neq \emptyset$.

Now our claim follows immediately by letting p = r.

Step 2. We claim that there exists some weight vector $u \in U(\mathcal{B}(G))u_0$ such that, for some $r \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$u \equiv L_{-\varepsilon_r, k_r} \cdots L_{-\varepsilon_1, k_1} v_{\Lambda} \pmod{V_{r-1}},$$

where $k_j \geq -1$, and $0 \prec \varepsilon_r \prec \cdots \prec \varepsilon_1$.

By Step 1, there exists some weight vector $u \in U(\mathcal{B}(G))u_0$ such that, for some $r \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$u \equiv \sum_{k_1, \dots, k_r \in \mathbb{N}} a_{\underline{k}} L_{-\varepsilon_r, k_r} \cdots L_{-\varepsilon_1, k_1} v_{\Lambda} \pmod{V_{r-1}} \quad \text{for some} \quad a_{\underline{k}} \in \mathbb{F},$$

where $0 \prec \varepsilon_r \prec \cdots \prec \varepsilon_1$ and

$$K:=\{\underline{k}=(k_r,\cdots,k_1)\,|\,a_{\underline{k}}\neq 0\}\neq\emptyset.$$

Let

$$\underline{j} = (-1, \dots, -1, j_s, \dots, j_1)$$
 with $j_s \neq -1$,

be the unique maximal element in K (recall (2.7)). Assume that K is not a singleton. Then $\underline{j} \neq (-1, \dots, -1)$. Set

$$\delta = \min\{\{\varepsilon_i, \varepsilon_j - \varepsilon_i \mid 1 \le j < i \le r\} \cap G_+\}.$$

Let $\varepsilon' \in G_+$ such that $\varepsilon' \prec \delta$. Then

$$L_{\varepsilon',-1} \cdot u \equiv \sum_{k_r, \dots, k_1 \in \mathbb{N}} \sum_{j=0}^r -(k_j+1)\varepsilon' a_{\underline{k}} L_{-\varepsilon_r, k_r} \cdots L_{-\varepsilon_{j+1}, k_{j+1}}$$
$$\times L_{\varepsilon'-\varepsilon_j, k_j-1} L_{-\varepsilon_{j-1}, k_{j-1}} \cdots L_{-\varepsilon_1, k_1} v_{\Lambda} \pmod{V_{r-1}}.$$

The term

$$L_{-\varepsilon_r,-1}\cdots L_{-\varepsilon_{s+1},-1}L_{\varepsilon'-\varepsilon_s,j_s-1}L_{-\varepsilon_{s-1},j_{s-1}}\cdots L_{-\varepsilon_1,j_1}v_{\Lambda}$$

appears in $L_{\varepsilon,-1} \cdot u$, since the corresponding coefficient is $-(j_s+1)a_{\underline{j}} \neq 0$. Using the same arguments as above and the induction on $\max\{k_r+\cdots+k_1 \mid a_{\underline{k}} \neq 0\}$, we see that there exists some weight vector $u \in U(\mathcal{B}(G))u_0$ such that

$$u \equiv \sum_{0 \prec \alpha_1 \preceq \cdots \preceq \alpha_r} a_{\underline{\alpha}} L_{-\alpha_1, -1} \cdots L_{-\alpha_r, -1} v_{\Lambda} \pmod{V_{r-1}} \quad \text{for some} \quad a_{\underline{\alpha}} \in \mathbb{F}.$$

Using the same arguments as in Step 1, we can prove the claim.

Step 3. We claim that there exists some $\varepsilon \in G_+$ such that $L_{-\varepsilon,k}v_{\Lambda} \in U(\mathcal{B}(G))u_0$ for $k \geq -1$.

By Step 2, there is a weight vector $u \in U(\mathcal{B}(G))u_0$ such that

$$u = L_{-\varepsilon_r, k_r} \cdots L_{-\varepsilon_1, k_1} v_{\Lambda} + \sum_{0 \le l < r, 0 < \alpha_1 \le \cdots \le \alpha_l} b_{\underline{\alpha}, \underline{i}} L_{-\alpha_1, i_1} \cdots L_{-\alpha_l, i_l} v_{\Lambda},$$

for some $b_{\underline{\alpha},\underline{i}} \in \mathbb{F}$, where $0 \prec \varepsilon_r \prec \cdots \prec \varepsilon_1$. Assume that $u \notin \mathbb{F}v_{\Lambda}$.

Set

$$I_0 = \{\underline{\alpha} = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_l) \mid b_{\alpha,i} \neq 0 \text{ for some } \underline{i}\}, \quad j^{(0)} = \min\{\varepsilon_r, \alpha_1 \mid \underline{\alpha} \in I_0\}.$$

Let $\varepsilon \in G_+$ such that $\varepsilon \prec \underline{j}^{(0)}$. Assume that $u \in M_{\lambda}$ (cf. (2.1)). By relations (1.1), we have

$$\begin{array}{lcl} L_{-\lambda-\varepsilon,j}u & = & f(-\lambda-\varepsilon)L_{-\varepsilon,j+k_r+\cdots+k_1}v_{\Lambda} + \sum\limits_{1\leq l< r,\, 0\prec\alpha_1 \preccurlyeq \cdots \preccurlyeq \alpha_l} b_{\underline{\alpha},\underline{i}}g_{\underline{\alpha},\underline{i}}(-\lambda-\varepsilon)L_{-\varepsilon,j+i_1+\cdots+i_l}v_{\Lambda} \\ \\ & = & \Big\{f(-\lambda-\varepsilon) + \sum\limits_{\substack{1\leq l< r,\, 0\prec\alpha_1 \preccurlyeq \cdots \preccurlyeq \alpha_l\\i_1+\cdots+i_l=k_1+\cdots+k_r}} b_{\underline{\alpha},\underline{i}}g_{\underline{\alpha},\underline{i}}(-\lambda-\varepsilon)\Big\}L_{-\varepsilon,j+k_r+\cdots+k_1}v_{\Lambda} \\ \\ & + \sum\limits_{\substack{1\leq l< r,\, 0\prec\alpha_1 \preccurlyeq \cdots \preccurlyeq \alpha_l\\i_1+\cdots+i_l \neq k_1+\cdots+k_r}} b_{\underline{\alpha},\underline{i}}g_{\underline{\alpha},\underline{i}}(-\lambda-\varepsilon)L_{-\varepsilon,j+i_1+\cdots+i_l}v_{\Lambda} & \in & U(\mathcal{B}(G))u_0, \end{array}$$

where in general f(x) and $g_{\underline{a},\underline{i}}(x)$ are determinants:

$$f(x) = \begin{vmatrix} j+1 & k_r+1 \\ x & -\varepsilon_r \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} j+k_r+1 & k_{r-1}+1 \\ x-\varepsilon_r & -\varepsilon_{r-1} \end{vmatrix} \cdots \begin{vmatrix} j+k_r+\cdots+k_2+1 & k_1+1 \\ x-\varepsilon_r-\cdots-\varepsilon_2 & -\varepsilon_1 \end{vmatrix},$$

$$g_{\underline{a},\underline{i}}(x) = \begin{vmatrix} j+1 & i_1+1 \\ x & -\alpha_1 \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} j+i_1+1 & i_2+1 \\ x-\alpha_1 & -\alpha_2 \end{vmatrix} \cdots \begin{vmatrix} j+i_1+\cdots+i_{k-1}+1 & i_k+1 \\ x-\alpha_1-\cdots-\alpha_{k-1} & -\alpha_k \end{vmatrix},$$

Since $\deg f(x) = r > \deg g_{\underline{\alpha},\underline{i}}(x)$ for all $\underline{\alpha} \in I_0$, we can find $\varepsilon \in G_+$ with $\varepsilon \prec \underline{j}^{(0)}$ such that

$$f(-\lambda - \varepsilon) + \sum_{1 \le l < r, \, 0 < \alpha_1 \le \dots \le \alpha_l} b_{\underline{\alpha}, \underline{i}} g_{\underline{\alpha}, \underline{i}}(\lambda - \varepsilon) \ne 0.$$

So we obtain some vector

$$u = (a_1 L_{-\varepsilon, i_1} + \dots + a_n L_{-\varepsilon, i_n}) v_{\Lambda} \in U(\mathcal{B}(G)) u_0,$$

for some $0 \neq a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{F}$. Choosing $\varepsilon' \in G_+$ with $\varepsilon' \prec \varepsilon$, using

$$L_{\varepsilon-\varepsilon',-1}u = -(\varepsilon-\varepsilon')(a_1(i_1+1)L_{-\varepsilon',i_1-1} + \dots + a_n(i_n+1)L_{-\varepsilon',i_n-1})v_{\Lambda} \in U(\mathcal{B}(G))u_0,$$

and induction on $\max\{i_1, \dots, i_n\}$, one can deduce that there exists some $\varepsilon' \prec \varepsilon$ such that $L_{-\varepsilon',-1}v_{\Lambda} \in U(\mathcal{B}(G))u_0$. Let $\varepsilon'' \in G_+$ such that $\varepsilon'' \prec \varepsilon'$. Then

$$L_{-\varepsilon'',k-1}v_{\Lambda} = -((k+1)\varepsilon')^{-1}L_{\varepsilon'-\varepsilon'',k}L_{-\varepsilon',-1}v_{\Lambda} \in U(\mathcal{B}(G))u_0 \quad \text{for all } k \ge 0.$$

This proves our claim.

Step 4. We claim that if there exists some $\varepsilon \in G_+$ such that $L_{-\varepsilon,k}v_{\Lambda} \in U(\mathcal{B}(G))u_0$ for all $k \geq -1$, then $L_{-x,k}v_{\Lambda} \in U(\mathcal{B}(G))u_0$ for all $k \geq -1$ and all $x \in B'(\varepsilon)$, where $B'(\varepsilon)$ is defined by

$$B'(\varepsilon) = \operatorname{span}_{\mathbb{Z}_+} \{ y \in G_+ \mid y \preccurlyeq \varepsilon \}.$$

Let $\varepsilon' \in G_+$ such that $\varepsilon' \prec \varepsilon$. Then

$$L_{-\varepsilon',k-1}v_{\Lambda} = -((k+1)(\varepsilon - \varepsilon'))^{-1}L_{\varepsilon-\varepsilon',-1}L_{-\varepsilon,k}v_{\Lambda} \in U(\mathcal{B}(G))u_0.$$

Since

$$(k+1)\varepsilon'L_{-(\varepsilon+\varepsilon'),k-1}v_{\Lambda} = L_{-\varepsilon',-1}L_{-\varepsilon,k}v_{\Lambda} - L_{-\varepsilon,k}L_{-\varepsilon',-1}v_{\Lambda} \in U(\mathcal{B}(G))u_0,$$

it follows that $L_{-(\varepsilon'+\varepsilon),k}v_{\Lambda} \in U(\mathcal{B}(G))u_0$ for all $k \geq -1$. Similarly, we deduce that

$$L_{-x,k}v_{\Lambda} \in U(\mathcal{B}(G))u_0$$
 for all $k \geq -1$ and all $x \in \mathbb{Z}_+\varepsilon + \mathbb{Z}_+\varepsilon'$.

Our claim follows.

By Step 3, we have $L_{-\varepsilon',-1}v_{\Lambda} \in U(\mathcal{B}(G))u_0$ for some $\varepsilon' \in G_+$. From

$$L_{\varepsilon',-1}L_{-\varepsilon',-1}v_{\Lambda} = \varepsilon'c \cdot v_{\Lambda} = \Lambda(c)v_{\Lambda},$$

$$L_{\varepsilon',k}L_{-\varepsilon',-1}v_{\Lambda} = -(k+1)\varepsilon'L_{0,k-1}v_{\Lambda} = -(k+1)\varepsilon'\Lambda(L_{0,k-1})v_{\Lambda} \text{ for } k \ge 0,$$

it is easy to see that $v_{\Lambda} \in U(\mathcal{B}(G))u_0$ if $\Lambda \neq 0$, hence in this case, $M(\Lambda, \succ)$ is irreducible.

On the other hand, if $\Lambda = 0$, then it is clear that

$$M'(0,0) = \sum_{k>0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k \in G_+} \mathbb{F}L_{-a_1, i_1} \cdots L_{-\alpha_k, i_k} v_0$$

is a proper $U(\mathcal{B}(G))$ -submodule. Assume that for all $x, y \in G_+$ there exists a positive integer n such that $nx \succcurlyeq y$. By Steps 1–4, there exists $\varepsilon' \in G_+$ such that $L_{-n\varepsilon',-1}v_0 \in M'(0,0)$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Thus for any $z \in G_+$, using $y = n\varepsilon' \succcurlyeq z$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we have

$$L_{-z,k-1}v_0 = -((k+1)y)^{-1}L_{y-z,k}L_{-y,-1}v_0 \in M'(0,0)$$
 for all $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$.

We see that M'(0,0) is in fact an irreducible $\mathcal{B}(G)$ -module.

If there exists $x, y \in G_+$ such that $\mathbb{N} x \prec y$, then $B(x) \prec y$ (cf. (2.2)). It is easy to verify that

$$W' = U(\mathcal{B}(G))\{L_{-z,k} \mid z \in B(x), k \ge -1\}v_{\Lambda},$$

is a proper submodule of M'(0,0) since $L_{-y}v_{\Lambda} \notin W'$.

(2) Suppose the order " \succ " is discrete (recall (2.4)). Note that $a\mathbb{Z} \subseteq G$. For any $x \in G$, we write $x \succ a\mathbb{Z}$ if $x \succ na$ for any $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Let

$$H_{+} = \{ x \in G \mid x \succ a\mathbb{Z} \}, \quad H_{-} = -H_{+}.$$

Denote by $\mathcal{B}(H_+)$ the subalgebra of $\mathcal{B}(G)$ generated by $\{L_{\alpha,k} \mid \alpha \in H_+, k \geq -1\}$. It is not difficult to see that $G = a\mathbb{Z} \cup H_+ \cup H_-$. Obviously, $\mathcal{B}(H_+)M_a(\Lambda, \succ) = 0$. Since

$$M(\Lambda, \succ) \cong U(\mathcal{B}(G)) \otimes_{U(\mathcal{B}(a\mathbb{Z}) + \mathcal{B}(H_{+}))} M_{a}(\Lambda, \succ),$$

it follows that the irreducibility of $\mathcal{B}(G)$ -module $M(\Lambda, \succ)$ imply the irreducibility of $\mathcal{B}(a\mathbb{Z})$ module $M_a(\Lambda, \succ)$.

Conversely, suppose $M_a(\Lambda, \succ)$ is an irreducible $\mathcal{B}(a\mathbb{Z})$ -module. Let $u_0 \notin \mathbb{F}v_{\Lambda}$ be any given weight vector in $M(\Lambda, \succ)$. Then $u_0 \in V_r \setminus V_{r-1}$ for some $r \in \mathbb{N}$. We want to prove that

 $U(\mathcal{B}(G))u_0 \cap M_a(\Lambda, \succ) \neq \{0\}$, from which the irreducibility of $M(\Lambda, \succ)$ as a $\mathcal{B}(G)$ -module follows immediately.

Write

$$u_0 \equiv \sum_{\substack{\alpha'_1, \dots, \alpha'_s \in H_+, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{r-s} \in a\mathbb{Z}_+, \\ \alpha'_1 \succcurlyeq \dots \succcurlyeq \alpha'_s, \alpha_1 \succcurlyeq \dots \succcurlyeq \alpha_{r-s}}} a_{\bar{\alpha}, \bar{j}} L_{-\alpha'_1, j'_1} \cdots L_{-\alpha'_s, j'_s} L_{-\alpha_1, j_1} \cdots L_{-\alpha_{r-s}, j_{r-s}} v_{\Lambda} \pmod{V_{r-1}},$$

for some $a_{\bar{\alpha},\bar{j}} \in \mathbb{F}$, where $j_t \geq j_{t+1}$ if $\alpha_t = \alpha_{t+1}$, and $j'_t \geq j'_{t+1}$ if $\alpha'_t = \alpha'_{t+1}$, and

$$(\bar{\alpha}, \bar{j}) = (\alpha'_1, \cdots, \alpha'_s, \alpha_1, \cdots, \alpha_{r-s}, j'_1, \cdots, j'_s, j_1, \cdots, j_{r-s}).$$

Let

$$\bar{I} = \{(\alpha'_1, \dots, \alpha'_s, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{r-s}, j'_1, \dots, j'_s, j_1, \dots, j_{r-s}) \mid a_{\bar{\alpha}, \bar{j}} \neq 0\}.$$

By assumption, $\bar{I} \neq \emptyset$.

For any

$$(\bar{\alpha}, \bar{j}) = (\alpha'_1, \dots, \alpha'_s, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{r-s}, j'_1, \dots, j'_s, j_1, \dots, j_{r-s}) \in \bar{I},$$

$$(\bar{\gamma}, \bar{l}) = (\gamma'_1, \dots, \gamma'_t, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{r-t}, l'_1, \dots, l'_t, l_1, \dots, l_{r-t}) \in \bar{I},$$

we define $(\bar{\alpha}, \bar{j}) \succ' (\bar{\gamma}, \bar{l})$ if and only if (cf. (2.6)–(2.8))

$$(\alpha_{r-s}, \cdots, \alpha_1, \alpha_s', \cdots, \alpha_1', j_{r-s}, \cdots, j_1, j_s', \cdots, j_1') \succ (\gamma_{r-t}, \cdots, \gamma_1, \gamma_t', \cdots, \gamma_1', l_{r-t}, \cdots, l_1, l_t', \cdots, l_1').$$

Let

$$(\bar{\beta}, \bar{i}) = (\beta'_1, \dots, \beta'_1, \beta'_{t+1}, \dots, \beta'_m, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_{r-m}, i'_1, \dots, i'_t, i'_{t+1}, \dots, i'_m, i_1, \dots, i_{r-m})$$

with $\beta'_1 \neq \beta'_{t+1}$, be the unique maximal element in \bar{I} with respect to \succeq' . Note that $\beta'_1 - \alpha'_k - a \geq 0$ if $\beta'_1 \neq \alpha'_k$. Then for $k_1 \gg 0$, we have

$$u(1) := L_{\beta'_1 - a, k_1} u_0 \equiv \sum_{\substack{\alpha'_1, \dots, \alpha'_{s-1} \in H_+, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{r-s} \in a\mathbb{Z}_+, \\ \alpha'_1 \succcurlyeq \dots \succcurlyeq \alpha'_{s-1}, \alpha_1 \succcurlyeq \dots \succcurlyeq \alpha_{r-s}, k'_1 \in \mathbb{N}}} a_{\bar{\alpha}, \bar{j}}^{(1)} L_{-\alpha'_1, j'_1} \cdots L_{-\alpha'_{s-1}, j'_{s-1}} \times L_{-a, k'_1} L_{-\alpha_1, j_1} \cdots L_{-\alpha_{r-s}, j_{r-s}} v_{\Lambda} \pmod{V_{r-1}},$$

for some $a_{\bar{\alpha},\bar{j}}^{(1)} \in \mathbb{F}$. Set

$$\bar{I}^{(1)} = \{ (\alpha'_1, \cdots, \alpha'_{s-1}, a, \alpha_1, \cdots, \alpha_{r-s}, j'_1, \cdots, j'_{s-1}, k'_1, j_1, \cdots, j_{r-s}) \mid a^{(1)}_{\bar{\alpha}, \bar{j}} \neq 0 \}.$$

$$(\bar{\beta}, \bar{i})^{(1)} = (\beta'_1, \cdots, \beta'_1, \beta'_{t+1}, \cdots, \beta'_m, a, \beta_1, \cdots, \beta_{r-m}, i'_1, \cdots, i'_{t-1}, i'_{t+1}, \cdots, i'_m, k_1 + i'_t, i_1, \cdots, i_{r-m}).$$

The term

$$L_{-\beta_1',i_1'}\cdots L_{-\beta_1',i_{t-1}'}L_{-\beta_{t+1}',i_{t+1}'}\cdots L_{-\beta_m',i_m'}L_{a,k_1+i_t'}L_{\beta_1,i_1}\cdots L_{-\beta_{r-m},i_{r-m}}v_{\Lambda}$$

appears in u(1) since the corresponding coefficient is

$$-m((k_1+1)\beta_1'+(i_s'+1)(\beta_1'-a))a_{\bar{\beta},\bar{i}}\neq 0 \quad \text{for some } m\in\mathbb{N}.$$

Thus $\bar{I}^{(1)} \neq \emptyset$. Now for $l = 2, \dots, r$, we define recursively and prove by induction that

(i) Choose
$$k_l \gg 0$$
 and let $u(l) = L_{\beta'_{m-l+1}-a,k_l} u(l-1)$. Then

$$u(s) \equiv \sum_{\substack{k'_{1}, \cdot, k'_{l} \in \mathbb{N}, \alpha'_{1}, \cdots, \alpha'_{s-l} \in H_{+}, \\ \alpha_{1}, \cdots, \alpha_{r-s} \in a\mathbb{Z}_{+}}} a_{\bar{\alpha}, \bar{j}}^{(l)} L_{-\alpha'_{1}, j'_{1}} \cdots L_{-\alpha'_{s-l}, j'_{s-l}} \times L_{-a, k'_{1}} \cdots L_{-a_{1}, j_{1}} \cdots L_{-\alpha_{r-s}, j_{r-s}} v_{\Lambda} \pmod{V_{r-1}},$$

for some $a_{\bar{\alpha},\bar{j}}^{(l)} \in \mathbb{F}$, where $\alpha_1' \succcurlyeq \cdots \succcurlyeq \alpha_{s-l}'$, $\alpha_1 \succcurlyeq \cdots \succcurlyeq \alpha_{r-s}$.

(ii) Let

$$\bar{I}^{(l)} = \{ (\alpha'_1, \cdots, \alpha'_{s-l}, a, \cdots, a, \alpha_1, \cdots, \alpha_{r-s}, j'_1, \cdots, j'_{s-l}, k'_l, \cdots, k'_1, j_1, \cdots, j_{r-s}) \mid a_{\bar{\alpha}, \bar{j}}^{(s)} \neq 0 \}.$$

Then $\bar{I}^{(l)} \neq \emptyset$.

Now letting l=m and noting that u(m) is a weight vector, we obtain that $0 \neq u(m) \in U(\mathcal{B}(G))u_0 \cap M_a(\Lambda, \succ)$ as required.

§3. Verma modules over $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{Z})$

Following [S1], we realize the Lie algebra $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{Z})$ in the space $\mathbb{F}[x, x^{-1}, t] \oplus \mathbb{F}c$ with the bracket

$$[x^{\alpha}f(t), x^{\beta}g(t)] = x^{\alpha+\beta}(\beta f'(t)g(t) - \alpha f(t)g'(t)) + \alpha \delta_{\alpha,-\beta}f(0)g(0)c, \tag{3.1}$$

for $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{Z}$, $f(t), g(t) \in \mathbb{F}[t]$, where the prime stands for the derivative $\frac{d}{dt}$.

We denote

$$L_{\alpha,i} = x^{\alpha} t^{i+1} \text{ for } \alpha \in \mathbb{Z}, i \ge -1.$$

Then (3.1) is equivalent to (1.1).

We always use the normal order on \mathbb{Z} . Denote by $M(\Lambda)$ the Verma $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{Z})$ -module with highest weight vector v_{Λ} . Suppose $M(\Lambda)$ is reducible. Let M' denote the maximal proper submodule of $M(\Lambda)$, and set $L(\Lambda) = M(\Lambda)/M'$, the irreducible highest weight module of weight Λ . Set

$$\mathcal{A} = \{ a \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{Z}) \mid av_{\Lambda} \in M' \} \text{ and } \mathcal{P} = \mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{Z})_{0}.$$

Clearly, $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{Z})_+ \subset \mathcal{A}$, and \mathcal{P} is a subalgebra of $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{Z})$.

Lemma 3.1 \mathcal{P} is a parabolic subalgebra of $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{Z})$, namely,

$$\mathcal{P} \supset \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{Z})_0 + \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{Z})_+ \neq \mathcal{P}. \tag{3.2}$$

Proof. The proof of (3.2) is equivalent to proving

$$\mathcal{P} \cap \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{Z})_m \neq 0 \quad \text{for some} \quad m < 0.$$
 (3.3)

Let n be the minimal positive integer such that $U(\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{Z}))_{-n}v_{\Lambda} \cap M' \neq 0$. If n = 1, 2, one can easily verify that (3.3) holds. Assume that n > 2. Then there exists a vector u of weight -n in M'. Write

$$u = \sum_{\substack{1 \le l \le n, \, \alpha_1 \le \dots \le \alpha_l \\ \alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_l = -n}} c_{\underline{\alpha}, \underline{j}} x^{-\alpha_1} t^{j_1} \dots x^{-\alpha_l} t^{j_l} v_{\Lambda} \in M' \quad \text{for some} \ c_{\underline{\alpha}, \underline{j}} \in \mathbb{F},$$

where $\underline{\alpha} = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_l), \underline{j} = (j_1, \dots, j_l),$ and $j_s \leq j_{s+1}$ if $\alpha_s = \alpha_{s+1}$ for $1 \leq s \leq l-1$. Moreover, we denote

$$(\underline{\alpha}, \underline{j}) = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_l, j_1, \dots, j_l), \text{ and } \underline{1} = (-1, \dots, -1) \text{ } (n \text{ copies of } -1\text{'s}).$$

Claim 1 $c_{\underline{1},\underline{j}} \neq 0$ for some \underline{j} .

Write (recall (2.5))

$$u \equiv \sum_{\substack{0 < \alpha_1 \le \dots \le \alpha_r, \\ \alpha_1 + \dots \alpha_l = -n}} c_{\underline{\alpha}, \underline{j}} x^{-\alpha_1} t^{j_1} \dots x^{-\alpha_r} t^{j_r} v_{\Lambda} \pmod{V_{r-1}},$$

where $\underline{J} = \{(\underline{\alpha}, \underline{j}) \mid c_{\underline{\alpha},\underline{j}} \neq 0\} \neq \emptyset$. Assume that there exists $(\underline{\alpha}, \underline{j}) \in \underline{J}$ such that $\underline{\alpha} \neq \underline{1}$. Let

$$(\beta, \underline{i}) = (1, \dots, 1, \beta_s, \dots, \beta_r, i_1, \dots, i_{s-1}, i_s, \dots, i_r)$$

be the unique maximal element in \underline{J} (here we use the order defined as in (2.8)), where $s \geq 1$ and $\beta_s \neq 1$. By assumption, we have $s \neq r+1$. Then for $k \gg 0$,

$$xt^k \cdot u \equiv \sum_{\alpha'_1 \leq \dots \leq \alpha'_r} c_{\underline{\alpha'},\underline{j'}} x^{-\alpha'_1} t^{j'_1} \dots x^{-\alpha'_r} t^{j'_r} v_{\Lambda} \pmod{V_{r-1}}.$$

Set

$$\underline{J'} = \{ (\underline{\alpha'}, \underline{j'}) = (\alpha'_1, \dots, \alpha'_r, j'_1, \dots, j'_r) \mid c_{\underline{\alpha'}, \underline{j'}} \neq 0 \},$$

$$(\underline{\beta}, \underline{j})' = (1, \dots, 1, \beta_s - 1, \beta_{s+1}, \dots, \beta_r, i_1, \dots, i_{s-1}, k + i_s - 1, i_{s+1}, \dots, i_r)$$

such that $(\underline{\beta},\underline{j})'$ is the unique maximal element in \underline{J}' . The term

$$x^{-1}t^{i_1}\dots x^{-1}t^{i_{s-1}}x^{-\beta_s+1}t^{k+i_s-1}x^{-\beta_{s+1}}t^{i_{s+1}}\cdots x^{-\beta_r}t^{i_r}v_{\Lambda}$$

appears in $xt^k \cdot u$ since the corresponding coefficient is $-m(\beta_s k - i_s)c_{\underline{\beta},\underline{i}} \neq 0$ for some $m \in \mathbb{N}$. Thus $\underline{J}' \neq \emptyset$ and $0 \neq U(\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{Z}))_{-n+1}v_{\Lambda} \cap M'$, a contradiction with the assumption. Our claim follows.

Now we can write

$$u \equiv \sum_{i_1 \le \dots \le i_n} c_{\underline{i}} x^{-1} t^{i_1} \dots x^{-1} t^{i_n} v_{\Lambda} + \sum_{l_1 \le \dots \le l_{n-1}} c'_{\underline{l}} x^{-1} t^{l_1} \dots x^{-1} t^{l_{n-2}} x^{-2} t^{l_{n-1}} v_{\Lambda} \pmod{V_{n-2}},$$

for some $c_{\underline{i}}, c'_{\underline{i}} \in \mathbb{F}$, where

$$\underline{I}' = \{ \underline{i} = (i_1, \dots, i_n) \mid c_i \neq 0 \} \neq \emptyset.$$

For any $\underline{i}, \underline{i}' \in \underline{I}'$, we define $\underline{i} > \underline{i}'$ as in (2.7). Let $\underline{j} = (j_1, \dots, j_n)$ be the unique maximal element in \underline{I}' . For $k \gg 0$, we have a nonzero weight vector

$$xt^k \cdot u = \sum_{i'_1 \le \dots \le i'_{n-1}} d_{\underline{i'}} x^{-1} t^{i'_1} \dots x^{-1} t^{i'_{n-1}} v_{\Lambda} \pmod{V_{n-2}}$$
 for some $d_{\underline{i'}} \in \mathbb{F}$,

since the coefficient corresponding to

$$(1, \dots, 1, j_1, \dots, j_{n-2}, k + j_{n-1} + j_n - 1)$$

is

$$m(k+j_{n-1})(k+j_{n-1}+j_n-1)c_j-(2k+j_{n-1}+j_n)d_{\underline{h}}\neq 0$$
 for some $m\in\mathbb{N}$,

where $\underline{h} = (j_1, \dots, j_{n-2}, j_{n-1} + j_n)$. Thus $0 \neq U(\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{Z}))_{-n+1} v_{\Lambda} \cap M'$, a contradiction. Our lemma follows.

By the lemma 3.1, we have $\mathcal{P}_{-1} = \mathcal{P} \cap \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{Z})_{-1} \neq 0$. Let f(t) be the monic ploynomial with minimal degree such that $x^{-1}f(t) \in \mathcal{P}$. We shall call such polynomial *charactic polynomial* (cf. [S1, KL]). Set $a = x^{-1}f(t)$. Since M' is a proper submodule, we have $b \cdot av_{\Lambda} = 0$ for any $b \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{Z})_+$. From (3.1), we have

$$[xg(t), x^{-1}f(t)]v_{\Lambda} = \Lambda(f'(t)g(t) + f(t)g'(t) - f(0)g(0)c) = 0$$
 for all $g(t) \in \mathbb{F}[t]$.

A weight $\Lambda \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{Z})_0^*$ is described by the central charge $c = \Lambda(c)$ and its label $\Lambda_i = \Lambda(t^i)$ for $i \geq 0$. We introduce the generating series

$$\Delta_{\Lambda}(z) = c + \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^{i+1}}{z!} \Lambda_i = c - \Lambda(ze^{zt}).$$

From [S1] and the above arguments, we obtain the following theorem.

Theorem 3.2 The following conditions are equivalent:

- (1) $M(\Lambda)$ is reducible.
- (2) $\mathcal{P}_{-1} \neq \{0\}.$
- (3) $\Delta_{\Lambda}(z)$ is a quasipolynomial.
- (4) $L(\Lambda)$ is quasifinite.

Now Theorem 1.1(1) follows from Theorem 3.2.

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